

Village of Bement discusses possibly purchasing new reporting database program for police department

By CHRISTY JANKOWSKI
Staff Writer

No action was taken on Tuesday December 11, but the Bement Village Board did discuss the possibility of purchasing a new reporting database program software for the Police Department.

Bement Police Officer David Lansford stated, "Basically the way I do reports right now is I put forms in Microsoft Word." This he states causes issues when looking up someone as he has to dig through records. He went on to add that by 2020, the FBI will mandate all Police departments to record reports in a similar fashion to the programs

mentioned.

Lansford brought up three different proposals from Dynamic Public Safety, CrimeStar, and Caliber. He stated that Dynamic Public Safety was not user friendly, and he did not see that as an option. He stated the other two: Crime Star and Caliber both were good options, with Caliber being the best option is his opinion. Lansford stated, "Basically sharing information with other law enforcements and I am a very big fan of that because that's about the only way really you can crack down on a lot of stuff by using experience and information from other agencies."

The village board decided to table the item for now, once more information from Caliber is obtained.

Audit in Good Shape and Other News

Neil Kuester of Feller & Kuester CPAs LLP from Champaign conducted Bement's Village audit stating, "Overall it's in good shape. We did some tidying up of the bank accounts. Some accounting issues, but extremely minor."

The liquor committee discussed the possibility of adding another Class A license last month and unanimously decided there was no need. The village board agreed Tuesday evening.

The village board approved end of the year bonuses for full time employees \$150 and \$75 for part time employees.

The village board approved an ad in Discover Magazine for \$380. They do this annually. It is a quarter page, two-color ad.

Clean up day will be June 22, 2019. The village is also currently still looking for a Recreation Director. The

advertisement in the paper gave zero results. Village President Pat Tieman states he will post something on his Facebook page and elsewhere online.

The fence ordinance No. 1082 passed with one no from Clayton Ahlden. The penalty for violating the ordinance was set at \$25. Only minor changes to the ordinance were made, such as adding no razor wire fences.

Village of Atwood not connected to website letter

By DORIS ELMORE
Staff Writer

In recent weeks many Atwood residents have received a letter in the mail regarding Nextdoor Village of Atwood. This letter is inviting the residents to join the free private online network. According to the letter the website shares service provider recommendations, items for sale/free, lost pet notifications and more.

The letter also states it is

100% free and private, just for neighbors.

Christine Stoltz, Atwood Village President, has been contacted by several residents asking if the village is sending this out due to it referring to the Village of Atwood. The letter is signed by Brodie Farrar of W. Orchard St.

Upon recommendation by Village Attorney Ken Crossman, Stoltz stated this letter is in no way connected to the Village of Atwood.

Tindle sentenced to 15 years in prison for vehicular hijacking with baby inside

By DORIS ELMORE
Staff Writer

Seth Tindle, 22, of Atwood pleaded guilty before Douglas County Judge Rick Broch on Wednesday, January 2, to a single count of vehicular hijacking, a Class 1 felony. Tindle was sentenced to 15 years in prison for stealing a car in Atwood with a baby inside.



SETH TINDLE

Douglas County States Attorney Kate Watson told this reporter that she feels the sentence is appropriate to the crime committed. "It was very disturbing to the victim and mother. Luckily, due to prompt and efficient police work, no one was injured. Tindle has never been to prison before and that may have been a help with the verdict." "The family is satisfied with the verdict," Watson added.

On Tuesday, September 25, 2018, the victim was preparing to leave her sis-

ter's home in the 300 block of Oak Drive. She was placing her six-month-old baby in her vehicle, when a male, later identified as Seth Tindle, ran out of the house next door and told the victim that someone was trying to kill him. He pushed her out of the way, entered the vehicle and drove away with the baby in the back seat.

Atwood Police Chief Rob Brass of the Atwood Police Department was advised of the situation and the ve-

hicle information and attempted to locate Tindle. Officers from the Arthur (Continued to Page 2)

Bement Principal reports that Middle and High School Advisory group doing well

By CHRISTY JANKOWSKI
Staff Writer

Principal Kepley stated in his report that the new Middle and High School Advisory group is going well. "This group of students meet once a quarter to share ideas on what we can do to improve our school and what positive things are currently happening." The committee is adding a Teacher of the month recognition coinciding with the Student of Month recognition. This month Shelby Strack and Luke Brewer were named the Students of the Month.

He went on to add, "The high school students also shared they feel that implementing the random drug testing policy this year has improved the overall culture and climate of our high school."

Last month Bement participated in a FCCLA community food drive and Day of Giving. Kepley stated all of the items were donated to the food pantry at Bement Christian Church. He added, "I would like to thank our students, staff and community for their donations to this worthy cause." The family of Ann Foran also made a donation to purchase a new used piano for the choir room.

Superintendent's Report Superintendent Sheila Greenwood shared the good news of Bement receiving new kitchen appliances valued at over \$36,000. The district received this through a grant through Ameren.

Bement is going to have someone take a gander at their big gymnasium roof for estimates on repair or

replacement. The roof has suffered some leaks, with Greenwood stating, "When it was windy and pouring the other night, we had a couple of leaks and we want to get that taken care of and taken care of right for the long-term future." The new gym padding mats will be installed soon with a purple and white Bement script in the middle.

Greenwood added at the end of her report: "The 2019 Property Tax Relief Grant is \$50 million for the entire state of Illinois. I think we should apply for it, just because I think school districts should send a message to the State that, yes, we remember that you are supposed to fund 51% of the funding for education and NOT leave it on the shoulders of local property taxes."

Electoral Hearing Postponed in Cerro Gordo

By CHRISTY JANKOWSKI
Staff Writer

Wednesday January 2, the Electoral Board met once again at the Municipal Building in Cerro Gordo, at 4pm. The hearing for Allen vs. Hyde is postponed until someone can be appointed to fill the vacated spot on the Electoral board. Tina McCarty recused herself from the Electoral Board because she will be called as a witness by Hyde's attorney.

The 6th Judicial Circuit Court Judge will appoint the new member. As far as the adoption of the rules, that will take place once a new member is appointed. Village President Dennis Ridgeway stated, "This matter will be addressed when we have a full electoral board."

Tom Hyde is being represented by Foltz and Ruppier, from Monticello. Tim Allen is representing himself.

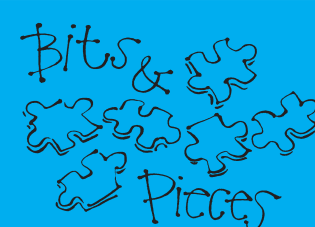
The hearing will more than likely take place by the end of January. Village Attorney Susan Nicholas, present to offer the electoral board legal counsel stated, "The most critical thing is that the hearing is fair."

(A previous article stated

that: Tom Hyde filed on December 17. He did not. Dennis Ridgeway's term will last two years. He is not up for reelection in the spring.)



Hammond Fire Protection District recognized members of the department for their years of service during the Department's Christmas dinner held on Saturday, December 8, 2018. Recognized were Firefighter David Turner (5 years), Firefighter Tyler Thornell (5 years), Lieutenant Tyler VanVleet (10 years), Jim Cullison (Accountant for the District - 10 years) and Chief Roger Sebens (20 years). Pictured are (l-r) David Turner, Roger Sebens and Trustees Austin Dillman, Ken Yeakley and Rick VanVleet. Kim Gee photo



Senior Class Fundraiser

Los Gallos Mexican Grill in downtown Arthur will be hosting another fundraiser for the Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School Class of 2019 on Thursday, January 17.

Twenty percent of all bills will go to the class to help defray the cost of the annual trip to Washington DC for the seniors.

Los Gallos is located at 128 S. Vine Street in Arthur.

BHS Student Council to host blood drive

The Bement High School Student Council and the American Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive on Friday, January 18 in the small gymnasium at BHS from 8 a.m. to noon.

The faculty blood drive coordinator is Anne Hobson. She can be reached at 217-678-4200 ext. 127 to make an appointment or with questions.

The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime.

American Legion Auxiliary

There will be no Atwood American Legion Auxiliary meeting on Monday, January 21. The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 18.

Families Anonymous meetings

Families Anonymous (FA) is a twelve-step support group for those concerned about their loved ones use of alcohol, drugs, or related behavior problems, whether current, suspected, or past abuse.

Meetings will be held on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the United Church of Atwood, 210 N Main St, Atwood. Enter through the door on the east side of the building.

Narcotics Anonymous meetings

Open Narcotics Anonymous meetings will be held every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at 521 North Illinois Street, Atwood. Pull down the alley and the building will be on the North side of the road.